



**International Covenant on
Civil and Political Rights**

General
2018

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**Human Rights Committee
124th session**

Summary record (partial)* of the 3529th meeting

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 8 October 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Shany

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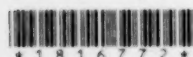
Adoption of the agenda

Organizational and other matters, including the adoption of the report of the Working Group on Communications

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **Mr. Salama** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) said that the new High Commissioner, Ms. Bachelet, had emphasized the importance of the Committee's work in her recent address to the Human Rights Council. She looked forward to meeting with the Committee later in the session. Four Committee members, namely Ms. Cleveland, Mr. de Frouville, Mr. Politi and Ms. Waterval, would be leaving the Committee at the end of the session and would be greatly missed. He wished to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Zimmermann, who had been elected to the Committee in August 2018.

2. OHCHR had begun to implement its management plan for 2018–2021, under which it would continue to support the work of all the human rights treaty bodies and would focus on prevention, on the protection of civic space and on expanding the global constituency for human rights. In that context, he wished to commend the Committee on its engagement with civil society and to encourage it to discuss other ways to involve civil society in its work.

3. As outlined in the recent report of the Secretary-General on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights (A/HRC/39/41), measures were being taken within the United Nations system to address the problem of reprisals against those who had cooperated with the United Nations. In order to tackle the problem effectively, it was important to develop a common approach across the system. To that end, most of the treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, had appointed a focal point or rapporteur on reprisals. OHCHR hoped that the Committee would step up its collaboration with the focal points and rapporteurs on reprisals of other treaty bodies, as well as with other human rights mechanisms and the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

4. At the thirtieth annual meeting of the Chairs of the treaty bodies, the Chairs had agreed to propose the appointment of focal points in each treaty body for the establishment of a common position ahead of the 2020 review of the treaty body system. The Committee had already made good progress in that regard by deciding upon its own position. The Chairs had also agreed to explore ways to align treaty body working methods with respect to both the simplified reporting procedure and follow-up to concluding observations and Views.

5. The latest report of the Secretary-General on the status of the human rights treaty body system (A/73/309) showed that the increase in meeting time granted to the treaty bodies had not been matched by the allocation of sufficient human resources and that some treaty body activities were far more labour-intensive than had been anticipated. As a result, OHCHR staff were struggling to cope with the workload. OHCHR was aware of the Committee's efforts to address the problem and looked forward to working with the Committee in order to find a sustainable, long-term solution.

6. During its 124th session, the Committee would consider the reports of six States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and would examine a number of individual communications submitted under the first Optional Protocol thereto. It would also continue its second reading of draft general comment No. 36 on article 6 of the Covenant (Right to life).

Solemn declaration by newly elected members of the Committee in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant

7. *At the invitation of the Chair, the new member of the Committee, Mr. Zimmermann, solemnly undertook to discharge his duties impartially and conscientiously in accordance with article 38 of the Covenant and rule 16 of the Committee's rules of procedure.*

Adoption of the agenda (CCPR/C/124/1)

8. **The Chair** said that, during its 124th session, the Committee would hold a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and an informal meeting with States parties. It was also planning to meet with members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as part of its ongoing efforts to work more closely with other treaty bodies. Lastly, it was aiming to finalize and adopt the draft general comment and the draft revised rules of procedure.

9. *The agenda was adopted.*

Organizational and other matters, including the adoption of the report of the Working Group on Communications

10. **Ms. Waterval** said that the Working Group on Communications had met from 1 to 4 October 2018 to consider 22 communications. Two of those communications had been available in English only; nevertheless, the Working Group had decided to proceed with its consideration of the cases in question, since they concerned deportation and were similar to a third case for which the documentation was available in the Committee's working languages. The Working Group recommended finding a violation of the Covenant in 14 cases and finding that there had been no violation in 1 case; 6 cases should be declared inadmissible, while 1 case allowed for two differing interpretations.

11. **The Chair** said that he associated himself with the concerns raised about the discussion of documents available in English only. Such problems were linked to the lack of resources mentioned by Mr. Salama.

12. *The report of the Working Group on Communications was adopted.*

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10 25 a.m.